

Each season brings its own beauty and wonder to Volo Bog, and seasonal visits allow for observation of a wide variety of plant and animal life. In the spring, fern fiddleheads reveal their beautiful marsh/sedge meadow community.

more extensive shrub zone, which abruptly ends and becomes a replaced by tamarack forest. Surrounding this forest is a second, sumac and leatherleaf invades the mat. This is eventually strate material thickens, a shrub community dominated by poison rounds an open pool of water in the center of the bog. As sub-sion. A floating mat of sphagnum moss, cattails and sedges sur-Volo Bog is significant in that it exhibits all stages of bog succe-

Natural Features

Groups should schedule programs well in advance.

tours, lectures and workshops are held throughout the year. Saturdays and Sundays. A broad spectrum of special events, and tours. Guided public tours of Volo Bog are conducted nator/naturalist is on staff to assist groups in planning programs wide variety of educational programming. A site program coordi-An excellent outdoor laboratory and classroom, Volo Bog offers a

Programs



Picnicking

A picnic area, featuring tables, a shelter with grills, and an outdoor privy, is adjacent to the visitor center parking lot. Ground fires and alcohol are strictly prohibited anywhere in the park.

For more information, contact Volo Bog State Natural Area, 28478 W. Brandenburg Road, Ingleside, Ill. 60041, (815) 344-1294.

Recreational Trails Program

This trail brochure was made possible due to funding provided by the Federal Highway Administration through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP).Monies are funded through the Federal Motor Fuel Tax and administered through the Recreational Trails Fund Act. Trail projects are supported by the federal government, which provides up to 80% reimbursement of cost. State funds provide the balance of the funding for the projects. The trails program encourages trails management practices to serve a wide variety of trail users. The program is administered in Illinois by the Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Exotic Species

Plants and animals not native to Illinois are exotic species. Most of them are harmless to our state; however, some can be very invasive to native plant communities and can overwhelm or wipe out native species. Prevention and control of exotic, invasive species requires tremendous cooperation between managers and all users of parks, natural areas, and privately owned land. To learn more about exotic and invasive species and how you can help prevent their spread, visit the IDNR Exotic Species Website at: <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/ExoticSpecies/exoticspintro.htm>.

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DNR's monthly magazine provides current news and articles on hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreational activities, as well as information on the natural and cultural resources of Illinois.

A one-year subscription is only \$15, and each December you'll receive a full-color calendar featuring important outdoor dates and events. To subscribe, contact DNR at (217) 782-7454. The TTY number for the hearing impaired is (217) 782-9175.

state holidays except Christmas and New Year's Day.

is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday and some offices, public restrooms and a book/gift shop. The visitor center houses a classroom, natural history reference library, park and highlight the inner workings of Volo Bog. The building also visitor center. Its displays and exhibits explain bogs in general

A renovated dairy barn built in the early 1900s serves today as a Visitor Center

lands and two other bogs.

which now includes marshes, prairie restoration areas, wood-have been purchased to protect and enlarge the state preserve, Interior. Through the years, more than 1,000 additional acres National Natural Landmark with the U.S. Department of the an Illinois Nature Preserve and in 1973 was registered as a Natural Resources in 1970. That same year, it was dedicated as resulted in the transfer of Volo Bog to the Illinois Department of idents formed the "Save Volo Bog" committee, whose efforts land faced the threat of development in the late 1960s. Local res-the 47.5-acre bog in 1958. Deeded to the University of Illinois, the Nature Conservancy, collected \$40,000 in donations to purchase by Cyrus Mark, the first director of the Illinois Chapter of the dairy farmer George Sayer. A fund-raising campaign, managed



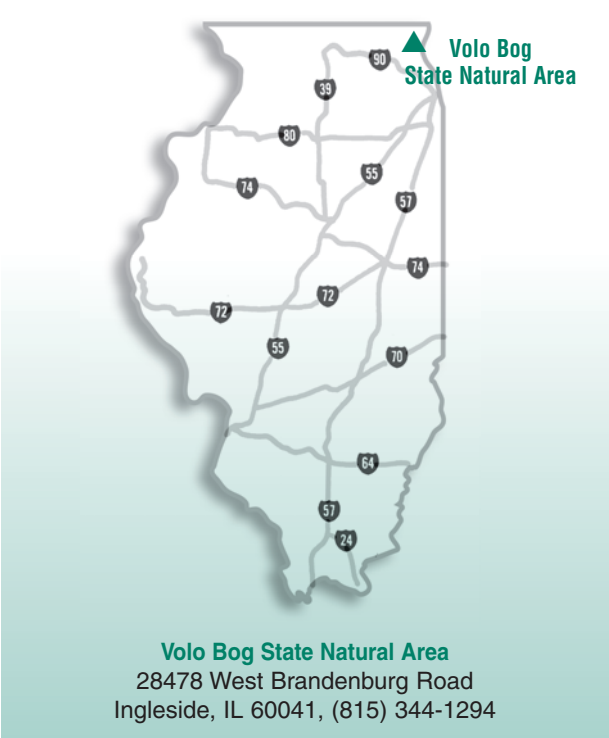
Volo Bog was first documented by W.G. Waterman of Northwestern Illinois University in 1921 when it was owned by communities found in the bog.

types of plants that could survive and resulted in the unique plant num moss, the water in the bog became acidic. This limited the ed plants. Because of poor drainage and the presence of sphag-posed, the peat mat thickened, forming support material for root-the lake's cattails and sedges. As these plants died and decom-ily of sphagnum moss, formed around the outside edges among- etation about 6,000 years ago. A floating mat, consisting primar-pollen grains preserved in the bog, the lake began filling with veg-and poor drainage. According to researchers who have studied Volo Bog was at one time a deep, 50-acre lake with steep banks

sions that developed into lakes, bogs and marshes.


mate continued to warm, the ice blocks melted, forming depres-large chunks of ice that broke off the melting glacier. As the cli-boulders, collectively called glacial till. Embedded in the till were deposited a blanket of debris, including clay, sand, gravel and its final stages of melting or "receding" thousands of years ago, it landscape of northeastern Illinois. As the Wisconsin glacier began Bog owes its existence to glacial activity, as does the rest of the ing the state's only quaking bog with an open water center. Volo Just 45 miles northwest of Chicago is a state natural area featur-

Volo Bog State Natural Area




- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be leashed. No pets on the Volo Bog Interpretive Trail.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Clearinghouse, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 visit our website at www.dnr.state.il.us.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other nonmerit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175.





State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Natural Resources



Volo Bog

STATE NATURAL AREA





fronds. Bog buckbean and leatherleaf bloom in abundance. A great variety of songbirds, waterfowl and wading birds stop by as they migrate north to their summer nesting areas.

As spring moves into summer, the orchids appear, including the delicate grass pink and rose pogonia. Great blue and green herons, sandhill cranes, white-tailed deer, mink, muskrat, raccoons and many other smaller creatures are often observed.

Fall is one of the most dramatic seasons and features the gold of the tamarack needles, the red of poison sumac and the greens of sphagnum moss.

Winter is a good time to identify trees and shrubs by their bark. The bright red berries of the winterberry holly and maroon leaves of the leatherleaf are a striking contrast to the bright whiteness of the snow-covered ground. Animal tracks in the snow provide evidence of life in the bog—muskrat, weasel and rabbits make their homes in the preserve. Periodically, when seed availability to the north is small, crossbills will visit the bog and can be observed cracking open tamarack cones.

Trails ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Volo Bog Interpretive Trail: Designed for hikers only, this half-mile interpretive loop leads visitors through each stage of bog succession. It is constructed of wood dock sections, boardwalks and a wood-chipped path. Trail brochures, adapted for each season, are available at the visitor center.

Tamarack View Trail: This 3.0-mile is designed only for hiking and, when there is a minimum snow base of 6 inches, cross-country skiing. As park visitors traverse through woods, wetlands, fields and prairie, they are given the opportunity to observe the diverse natural communities within the park. From higher elevations along the trail, they can look into the Volo Bog basin and view tamarack trees, which are listed as a threatened species in Illinois. The trail begins southeast of the visitor center and goes counterclockwise. It's especially advisable to move in this direction when skiers are on the trail to avoid accidents.



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